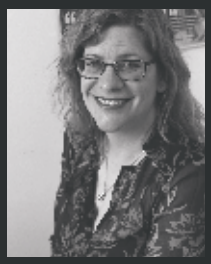
Cyan shown on masthead is silver foil



WELCOME to our sustainability edition of *The Brighton Effect*, our magazine for alumni, friends and students of the University of Brighton.

We're excited to be sharing with you a glimpse of the incredible work researchers, alumni and students are undertaking to address climate change and our impact on the environment. There are so many projects and products being developed by members of our university community that look at waste and our world in a new way, bringing life to the things that others would send to landfill.

In the following pages, you'll discover how alumni are recycling waste into useful products, discovering microplastics in crustaceans, developing alternative fuels, and much more. Throughout the year, you'll be able to follow more stories about sustainability at the University of Brighton through our hashtag #MadeAtBrighton.

As always, our magazine has been created with the help of several of our alumni, as well as current students. A huge thank you to those who kindly contributed to the making of this edition. Their work is a real testament to the innovation and creativity #MadeAtBrighton. If you would like to take part in future editions of the magazine, please email alumni@brighton.ac.uk.

Happy reading,

MARNIE MIDDLEMISS
DIRECTOR OF PHILANTHROPY AND ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT, UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON

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SERGE ATTUKWEI CLOTTEY
HONORARY DOCTORATE OF ARTS, 2019

Cover star, Ghanaian artist Serge Attukwei Clottey is renowned for his work that examines the powerful agency of everyday objects. Working across installation, performance, photography and sculpture, Serge explores narratives of personal, family and collective histories often relating to trade and migration.

Serge is one of the new voices highlighting the plastic waste crisis through his art. In his 'Afrogallonism' project, Serge transforms discarded plastic jerrycans into vibrant large-scale sculptures and installations, creating giant yellow tapestries by cutting the cans into small tiles and binding them together to create what he calls "paint-less paintings".

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IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS ROUND UP

ESPECIALLY FOR YOU, BRIGHTON!

In August, Kylie Minogue joined a University of Brighton graduate's dance troop in a video promoting Brighton Pride.

Over 80 dancers from Streetfunk, a hip-hop dance school co-run by Brighton alumni JP Omari, appeared alongside Kylie in the dance video. The Aussie pop legend filmed her part against a green screen and incorporated footage of the Brighton dancers alongside her.

Multi-award winning hip-hop dancer and choreographer JP Omari, who graduated in International Business with French in 2003, said: "It was a fantastic experience and a brilliant opportunity for the dancers from my street dance school. Particularly as the video's since had over 100,000 views!" ✖

GRADUATE WINS PRESTIGIOUS PORTRAIT AWARD

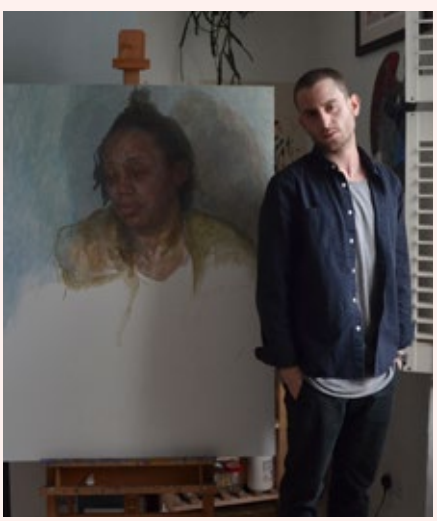
This year's highly coveted BP Portrait Award has been won by a University of Brighton graduate.

Charlie Schaffer, who graduated in Fine Art Painting in 2014, triumphed over 2,538 entries from 84 countries. He was presented with the prize at the National Portrait Gallery, together with a cheque for £35,000.

Judges praised Charlie's painting *Imara in her Winter Coat* for its "combination of different textures including faux fur, hair and skin," producing an image that is "traditional but clearly contemporary".

The painting of Imara, a close friend of Charlie's, took the artist four months to complete. "It required Imara to sit three times a week for three hours at a time, and occurred during a time in which both of us were going through quite a severe depression," revealed Charlie. "This painting became both of our therapies, our saviour, our reason to get up in the morning and carry on."

Chris Stevens, course leader of Fine



Art Painting at the University of Brighton, said: "I'm absolutely delighted for Charlie. It's a fabulous painting and he richly deserves the award. I remember when Charlie began developing his ideas about portrait painting during his studies with us at Brighton. I was really impressed with his desire to work with his sitters rather than rely on photographs; believing that face-to-face contact is a vital part of portraiture." ✖

BRIGHTON SCIENTISTS IMPROVE WEARABLE ARTIFICIAL KIDNEYS

University of Brighton scientists have helped develop a new material which absorbs toxins and improves the efficiency of wearable artificial kidneys.

The breakthrough, combined with other improvements to device portability, could ultimately mean more freedom for patients with renal failure and less reliance on hospital-based dialysis.

Dr Susan Sandeman, Reader in Biomaterials Science from the university's School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences, and university colleagues Dr Ganesh Ingavle and Miss Tochukwu Ozulumba, have been collaborating in the development of nano-thin 2D materials which trap urea molecules.

Efficient removal of urea is one of the key challenges associated with the development of the wearable kidney and cannot currently be achieved directly without first producing toxic ammonia.

Researchers are now looking to further optimise the new materials and to design new wearable artificial devices. ✖

LAUREN'S INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY DEBUT

Lauren Roberts, a University of Brighton Physical Education student, won her first international cap for the Wales senior women's hockey team in their recent European Championship victory over Turkey.

Having been sidelined for most of last season with a serious knee injury, Lauren's recovery has been remarkable. Reflecting on her first cap, she said: "It was an unforgettable moment. Going into the competition I was excited about the experience of being at a senior competition, but wasn't expecting to play due to having limited experience in a senior environment." ✖

STUDENT'S CHAIR DESIGN WINS AWARD

A 3D Design and Craft graduate from the University of Brighton who created a chair to help stop 'manspreading' has won the Belmond Award at New Designers in London.

According to the Cambridge English Dictionary, manspreading is "the act of a man sitting, especially on public transport, with his legs spread wide apart, in a way that means that the people next to him have less space."

Laila Laurel's controversial design – entitled *A Solution for Manspreading* – is crafted so that men have to sit with their legs closed as a way of preventing them from encroaching on the space of others.

"The reaction from my teachers and peers, many of whom are male, was really positive," said Laila. "They understood it was not a direct attack on them or an act of aggression but a fun design centred around the experiences of many women – including myself – around the world."

The judging panel from Belmond, the luxury hotel and leisure company, said Laurel's chair was "a bold, purpose-driven design that explores the important role of design in informing space, a person's behaviour and society issues of today". ✖

PROFESSOR JULIAN CRAMPTON

CBE DL PhD CBiol FRSB FRES FRSA
11 JAN 1952 – 26 JUNE 2019

Tributes have been paid to former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Brighton, Professor Julian Crampton CBE, who sadly passed away in June.

Professor Crampton, who was Vice-Chancellor for 10 years, died aged 66 after a lengthy illness.

Before working at the University of Brighton, Professor Crampton was awarded a BSc at the University of Sussex and then gained a doctorate at the University of Warwick before he took up research appointments in London, Liverpool and Boston (USA).

He made his name at the University of Liverpool, where he practiced molecular biology and researched tropical diseases. Specialising in the treatment of malaria and venomous snake and spider bites, the Professor made global headlines when he used mosquitos to carry a vaccine against malaria, known as the 'flying syringe'.

Professor Crampton moved to the University of Brighton in 2005, where he became Vice-Chancellor, retiring in 2015 as Distinguished Emeritus Professor of Molecular Biology and was awarded a CBE for services to education.

Professor Debra Humphris, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Brighton, said: "I was not fortunate enough to have worked with Professor Crampton, but I have spoken to colleagues who have told me of his vision of what this university could achieve. A commitment to widening participation, high-quality research, and the sponsorship of developments across the university's entire estate were all testaments to his ambitions. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him."

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

DUVET DAYS SET TO SAVE THE PLANET!

The University of Brighton's Waste House, Europe's first permanent public building made almost entirely from waste material, is at the forefront of developing a new insulating material made from reusing the humble duvet.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of duvets are thrown away and either buried in landfill or incinerated. But, an ongoing project led by the Waste House team has discovered a new use for duvets and pillows – insulation for cavity walls.

Currently, no duvets in the UK are re-used despite the fact they're ready-made insulation and need no re-processing, just cleaning. University of Brighton lecturer and Waste House architect Duncan Baker-Brown (pictured right) explains: "Bedding is a huge problem because none of it is recyclable. It's particularly prevalent in a city like Brighton with its huge student population and hundreds of hotels. Students rarely take their duvets home when they've finished their course, so they often just get thrown away."

As part of the EU-funded Interreg Research Programme, Baker-Brown's team linked up with Veolia, a global waste management company, to collect old polyester and duck down duvets, from Brighton students.

The duvets were cleaned and turned into a prototype insulation panel and installed at the Waste House – with spectacular results. "We used about 20 duvets in our house and the results showed that they performed as well as any other insulation product currently on the market," says Baker-Brown.

"But we're designers and not scientists, so we also ran the duvet experiment at the Universities of Bath and Rouen in France, who actually achieved better heat values because they compressed the duvets during installation which made the insulation even more effective. So, that's clearly the way to go, which is really exciting."

In fact, so promising are the initial results that the Brighton Waste House has been asked to extend the research project with several companies showing an interest in launching the new insulation technique as a marketable product.

Thanks to the Waste House, recycling duvet covers for home insulation looks set to be a game-changer. ✖

THE HOUSE THAT WASTE BUILT

Built by students in 2014 and located in the grounds of the University of Brighton's City Campus, the Waste House is a live research project and a living laboratory for ecological architectural design.

Made almost entirely from discarded waste destined for landfill sites or incineration, the material used in the construction includes 20,000 toothbrushes, 500 bicycle inner tubes, two tonnes of denim jeans, 4,000 DVD cases, 4,000 floppy discs, 2,000 used carpet tiles and tons of builders' rubble and construction waste.

Earlier this year, the Waste House featured on the BBC1 show *Countryfile Diaries*. The episode focused on the unique Brighton project to show how recycled, repurposed and bio materials could create a blueprint for homes of the future as well as helping to tackle the UK's housing and landfill crisis.

Since then, the Waste House has continued to evolve. In addition to discarded duvets, the latest waste products to be recycled in the house are thousands of oyster shells from English's Oyster Bar in central Brighton. The shells are ground down, mixed with waste aggregates from the local Preston Barracks development site, and turned into exterior wall tiles.

Over seven million tonnes of mollusc shells are discarded by the seafood industry every year. The shells consist of over 90% calcium carbonate, a common ingredient in the production of cement, one of the largest sources of harmful CO_2 emissions. Currently, the majority of the cement industry's calcium carbonate comes from ecologically harmful and unsustainable limestone mining, so the discarded oyster shells could be an effective and environmentally friendly replacement. ✖

http://arts.brighton.ac.uk/projects/wastehouse

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

WORLD FIRST FOR BRIGHTON BIOLOGY GRADUATE

A University of Brighton graduate is leading the way in research into the presence of microplastics in the brains of velvet swimming crabs.

Hannah Parker's world-leading research, supervised by the university's Dr Neil Crooks and Dr Angelo Pernetta, is the first to demonstrate the presence of microplastics in the brain of any crustacean species.

The study's findings have potentially huge implications for a range of behaviours in the crab species, including predator avoidance, foraging and reproduction, and was published in the *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology*.

The study grew out of Hannah's undergraduate final-year project at the university. Dr Crooks and Dr Pernetta secured funding to perform the sample tests – which Hannah carried out in the summer after graduating – winning the university's Environmental Award for her work.

Hannah said: "I'm thrilled that my research is out in the world for others to read and reference. I really hope that it provides further knowledge on an important topic."

Dr Pernetta said: "What is really surprising about this research is that the crabs were not only able to readily consume microplastics from eating contaminated mussels, but the microplastics were subsequently transferred around the body and retained in all tissues we inspected.

"Our biggest concern is that this included the brain tissue. The consequences of this on the animal's behaviour is something we now need to explore." ✖

BUSINESS SCHOOL ADOPTS UNITED NATIONS' GOALS

In June, the University of Brighton's Business School adopted the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a framework for progressing a new mission and vision built around 'Responsible Enterprise'.

The UN's 17 SDGs, ranging from 'No Poverty' to 'Climate Action', are built on three core elements: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. These now underpin the Business School's core vision and mission. They call for concerted efforts towards building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for people and the planet.

"Our mission is to advance, support and shape responsible enterprise through education, research, collaboration and thought leadership," said Julie Fowlie, Brighton Business School's Deputy Head.

"Everything we do now has a direct link to our main ethos of 'Responsible Enterprise'. So, our work in the Business School has been realigned to fit into the framework of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. For example, our newly designed foundation year programmes, which started in September 2019, now have responsible enterprise and responsible citizenship as key objectives."

The University of Brighton's Business School is one of only a select few in the UK to adopt these goals. ✖

UNIVERSITY'S NEW SOLAR SYSTEM

The University of Brighton has installed hundreds more solar panels that will generate enough annual electricity to power 11 UK households.

The 222 panels were placed across the roof of the main building of the University's City campus and will cut the university's annual emissions by over 20 tonnes of CO_2.

The installation is the result of an ongoing collaboration between the university and Brighton Energy Co-op (BEC), a collective that builds community-funded solar systems across Sussex. The panels have a capacity of just under 60kW and will generate over 50,000 kWh of electricity a year. The project now brings the university's total onsite solar capacity to just under 500kW – including 270kW owned by BEC – and over 1,800 panels.

Abigail Dombey, the university's Environmental Manager, said: "We're delighted to be working again with BEC on another solar project. The collaboration means we can install new solar panels and increase onsite renewable energy generation." ✖

DRIVING TOWARDS ZERO-EMISSION ENGINES

Groundbreaking new engine technology, based on world-leading research at the University of Brighton, is opening the way to production of the world's first near zero-emission heavy internal combustion engine.

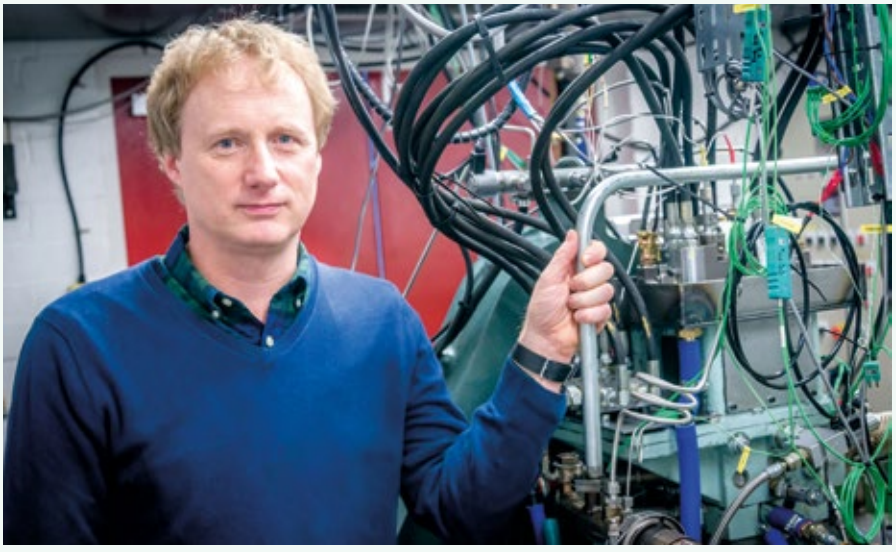
The CryoPower Cool Combustion process enables recovery of otherwise wasted exhaust heat, which is then cooled via the injection of a small amount of liquid nitrogen. The liquid nitrogen acts as both a coolant and an additional source of energy, reducing emissions and improving fuel efficiency.

Test results have shown CryoPower to offer a near-zero emissions capability, in some cases offering lower tailpipe NOx emissions than in the surrounding air.

Professor Rob Morgan (below) of the University of Brighton's Advanced Engineering Centre said: "Our research has taken a completely new approach to the design of the combustion system. Our split-cycle engine combines the findings of our high efficiency research with our low emissions research ideas. On the test bed, we are getting engine-out emission much lower than a fully optimised modern truck. With some after-treatment, you would get to very low level emissions that are actually cleaner than the air going into the engine."

The technology is suitable for use with heavy-duty engines running on diesel or a range of other liquid or gaseous conventional, bio or synthetic fuels ranging from long-haul trucks, to stationary power and off-highway equipment.

The CryoPower project is being developed through a partnership with Brighton-based engineering firms Ricardo, Hiflux Ltd and AMRC. ✖



GREEN MP'S MESSAGE AT NATURE SYMPOSIUM

Over 120 high-profile delegates, including Brighton's Green Party MP Caroline Lucas, attended a two-day symposium at the University of Brighton, which focused on the link between children and nature.

The July event, Connecting Young People with Local Nature, took place at City Campus and was co-organised by the University of Brighton's Dr Rachel White and Royal Holloway, University of London's Dr Deborah Harvey.

Caroline Lucas was one of the keynote speakers. In her speech she made the case that "young people's connection to nature is the most important issue we can be discussing". The MP went on to say that "connecting young people with nature is fundamental for their wellbeing and the wellbeing of the planet".

Dr Rachel White said of the symposium: "Multiple benefits can arise from interacting with the natural world first-hand – such as biodiversity conservation, education, health and wellbeing – yet there are growing concerns that people are becoming increasingly disconnected from nature.

"This interdisciplinary and inclusive event provided the unique opportunity to showcase and learn from existing UK-based efforts to ensure young people are connected with nature on their doorstop." ✖

UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON LECTURER **DR SARAH PITT*** HAS DISCOVERED A SOLUTION TO THE ANTIBIOTICS CRISIS – GARDEN SNAILS

BY NICOLA MORRISON

We live in a world of constant threats: climate change, nuclear war, global terrorism. But perhaps the biggest, yet quietest, threat to our time on this planet is human resistance to antibiotics.

Overuse of existing antibiotics has led to the rise of drug-resistant superbugs to such a degree that by 2050, it's estimated that antibiotic resistance could kill up to 10 million people a year. These statistics make antibiotic resistance as big a threat to human existence as climate change, without nearly the same amount of public or political awareness.

No surprise then that for scientists it's a race against time to find alternative treatments before everyday infections become life-threatening scenarios. Thankfully, the University of Brighton is leading the way. New research from Dr Sarah Pitt, lead lecturer in the university's School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences (PABS), has led to the discovery of a protein with unique antibiotic properties, in the most unlikely of places: the humble garden snail.

"Snails are a completely different organism to where we normally find antibiotics, like fungi," says Dr Pitt. "Which is why this research is so important because it's possible that the protein may act very differently to everything we already know."

While these cute little garden pests are known for creating gooey slime paths up your garden fence and conservatory windows, their shiny mucus could be the key ingredient for a global, medical breakthrough.

"The particular protein that we found works against the bacteria *pseudomonas aeruginosa*, which is really nasty and responsible for cystic fibrosis and other respiratory infections," explains Dr Pitt. "It can also lead to UTIs and other infections, especially in skin burns."

The genius idea of looking to snails to save mankind is one that Dr Pitt was happy to share with her husband, Dr Alan Gunn, who was curious as to how snails remained so healthy while slithering around on top of billions of soil bacteria every day. In what Dr Pitt describes as a 'joint enterprise', the couple decided to delve deeper into the gunk.

Dr Gunn began the research in Liverpool in 2013, but it wasn't long before Dr Pitt pointed out that he was "doing it all wrong" and took on the project herself at the University of Brighton. When asked if her husband is still involved, she grins: "Oh, he helps out when he can," and laughs. "He once had to bring a load of snails down on the train from Liverpool, which was quite awkward."

During her five years of research, Dr Pitt's valuable work has been aided by two grants awarded by the University of Brighton – a Rising Star grant was awarded in 2016 and the Output Enhancement Fund in 2017.

Together with two masters in research students, she's currently working towards a combination treatment to maximise the medical effect. This entails combining already existing antibiotics with the protein found in the snail mucus; a trend within research for antibiotic resistance.

Photography: Laurie Griffiths. With thanks to Wakehurst

*SCHOOL OF PHARMACY AND BIOMOLECULAR SCIENCES

"THIS RESEARCH IS SO IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THE PROTEIN MAY ACT VERY DIFFERENTLY TO EVERYTHING WE ALREADY KNOW."

"THEY JUST POP OUT AND SAY HELLO AND REALLY MAKE YOU HAPPY. I NEVER USED TO GIVE SNAILS A SECOND LOOK BUT NOW — I LOVE THEM. AND NO, BEFORE YOU ASK, I'VE NEVER EATEN ONE!"

Their goal is to develop a cream for skin conditions and an aerosol spray for lung infections, but more work is needed before the products become a reality.

For this, they regularly collect snails from available gardens (normally those of the students) and release them back into the 'wild' after they've donated mucus for one to two years. "I think snails are amazing," says Dr Pitt softly. "They just pop out and say hello and really make you happy. I never used to give snails a second look but now – I love them. And no, before you ask, I've never eaten one!"

Snails may well be a delicacy in other parts of Europe, but in Korea and Thailand, snail mucus has been the USP of a new beauty craze for a face cream said to slow down the effects of ageing. Although dermatologists are divided on the benefits, beauty brands and bloggers swear by it – with jars of the product costing up to $300 each. "There is a team in Italy trying to determine the scientific benefits of putting snail mucus into a cream," says Dr Pitt warily. "But, as yet, there are no conclusive results."

Back in the Brighton lab, Dr Pitt's valuable work continues. "We'll need another five years at least until a product is ready. We've still got to work out exactly how it works and then it needs to go to a pharmaceutical company who will need another six months to a year before they'll even get interested. But, there is a danger of us presenting our research, and for the protein to be duplicated or synthesised in a slightly different way by the companies, so we need to choose the right moment."

For the future of mankind, here's hoping Dr Pitt's timing is as good as her research. ✖

STOCK IMAGE TO BE PURCHASED

THE RECYCLISTS

THREE BRIGHTON GRADUATES HAVE EACH BUILT THRIVING BUSINESSES FROM RECYCLING WASTE MATERIAL INTO DESIRABLE CONSUMER PRODUCTS. OVERLEAF, MEET THE THREE GREEN ENTREPRENEURS DOING EXTRAORDINARY THINGS WITH USED CHEWING GUM, PLASTIC BAGS AND... DOG HAIR

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAURIE GRIFFITHS

Chewing gum takes up to five years to biodegrade.

On average the cost of a piece of chewing gum is 3p. The cost to remove one piece of chewing gum is approximately 10p.

On London's Oxford Street alone, there are an estimated 250,000 blobs of discarded chewing gum on the pavement at any one time.

Globally, 100,000 tons of gum are chewed every year.

Of the 8.3 billion tonnes of virgin plastic produced worldwide, only 9% has been recycled.

It takes over 500 years for a plastic bag to degrade in a landfill.

Scientists estimate that by mid-century, ton for ton, the oceans will contain more plastic waste than fish.

If present trends continue, by 2050 there will be 12 billion metric tons of plastic in landfills.

Second to oil, the clothing and textile industry is the largest polluter in the world.

95% of the textiles that are sent to landfill each year could be recycled.

20,000 litres of water is needed to produce one kilogram of cotton; equivalent to a single T-shirt and pair of jeans.

The fashion industry contributes 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions due to its energy intensive production.

Statistics collated from publicly available resources.

BUSINESS WITH GUMPTION

GUMDROPLTD

DESIGN GRADUATE **ANNA BULLUS**'S* COMPANY RECYCLES CHEWING GUM WASTE INTO A RANGE OF NEW PRODUCTS – EVERYTHING FROM FRISBEES AND RULERS TO TRAINERS AND GUMBOOTS (NATURALLY)

MAKING PRODUCTS OUT OF WASTE CHEWING GUM IS A BRILLIANT SOLUTION TO A STICKY PROBLEM. HOW DOES IT WORK?

Our Gumdrop bins (above) are the first in the world specifically designed for the disposal of used chewing gum. Chewers drop their gum into the bin and when full, they're sent back to us where they're recycled into new bins as well as a host of other products like mobile phone covers and door stops. The other arm of our business is the Gum-tec side where we work with gum manufacturers to help them eliminate their waste. The large quantities of waste gum from their factory enables us to create other new products like our wellies which would otherwise require over 2,000 pieces of chewed gum to make.

WHEN YOU WERE DEVELOPING THE IDEA, WHAT WAS YOUR EUREKA MOMENT?

It was during a research project in my final year at Brighton. I started collecting kerbside waste and couldn't believe the amount of gum litter. As I researched it more, I discovered there was no front-end solution on the market. Rather than saying 'here's something else you can do with your gum litter', it was all reactive about how to clear the mess up from the pavement. I also remember reading that gum was only declared litter in 2005. I was gobsmacked by that. That was the eureka moment.

WERE YOU ALWAYS INTERESTED IN GREEN ISSUES?

I had a slight interest before, but the University of Brighton and the course really ignited a passion within me for recycling and sustainability. The course provided the mindset 'How can we do things better?' which really inspired me. The tutors and technicians were amazing and made you question and think in a way that helped you focus on developing concepts for the real world. They were instrumental in inspiring me and giving me the confidence to explore the crazy ideas that I thought up. They had this brilliant way of very gently steering you in the right direction.

WHERE DID YOU INITIALLY GET THE GUM FROM TO DEVELOP YOUR PRODUCTS?

In my final year at Brighton, I used to get my friends to chew gum all the time so that I'd have enough to test various things in the chemistry lab. But it was never enough. So, I can remember getting the bus from Grand Parade to the science labs at the Moulsecoomb campus every morning, stuffing my face with gum and spitting it out into an empty cup. Other passengers thought I was mad!

WAS THE GUMDROP BIN DIFFICULT TO LAUNCH?

Initially it was very difficult. After I left university I did about four years of research on the project before I was able to start any market trials. Then I needed to prove that the concept worked with real customers. Getting companies to buy into the concept at a time when plastics and recycling were not at the top of people's agenda was a real challenge.

WHERE ARE THE BINS IN USE NOW?

We work with a lot of councils because the specially designed bins, or Gumdrops as we've branded them, are proving to be a long-term money-saver versus the cost of gum clean-up. We now have over 750 locations across the UK in high streets, rail stations, shopping centres, offices, schools and high-profile locations like Heathrow Airport and Legoland. We're also getting a lot of interest from America, several European countries and are about to start trialling in New Zealand.

In this country we're also doing an increasing amount of work with schools. We get to go in and talk to kids and get them involved when they're young. We then stand a better chance of changing behaviour around litter dumping.

ARE YOUR NEW WELLIES ON SALE YET?

It won't be long! They've taken us three years to develop and we're now

"I REMEMBER READING THAT GUM WAS ONLY DECLARED LITTER IN 2005. I WAS GOBSMACKED BY THAT."

talking to manufacturers. We're trying to keep the manufacturing process in this country if we can, but we're aiming to launch them in time for the festival season next year. We're really excited because not only are they as durable as ordinary wellies but they don't use any virgin plastic and are 100% recyclable.

ARE THEY AVAILABLE IN ANY COLOUR SO LONG AS IT'S PINK?

Pink will obviously be one of them because it's the signature colour of Gumdrop. It was the first colour of bubble gum, so everything just had to be pink. But the boots will also be available in three additional colours to begin with.

ANY MORE GUMMY PRODUCTS IN THE PIPELINE?

We're constantly looking to develop new products and have 12 projects on the go at any one time. We're still very much at the beginning of the technology in terms of what we can do with it. So the new markets we're focusing on are cosmetics, apparel and footwear. The cosmetic products consist of bottles and tubes for moisturisers, shampoo and makeup.

We also produced a limited edition run of 500 pairs of trainers (pictured), each made from approximately 125 pieces of gum, which sold out immediately. It was a collaboration with an Amsterdam fashion brand and Amsterdam city council, so the sole of the trainer features a street map of Amsterdam where the waste gum was collected. We'll be replicating that project on a much larger scale very soon.

BE HONEST - HAS YOUR WORK PUT YOU OFF CHEWING GUM FOR LIFE?

I've been involved with it so long that I must admit that just the smell of some flavours makes my stomach churn. But I do occasionally chew gum. I still like to do my bit to keep our Gumdrop bins topped up! ✖

*BA(HONS) THREE-DIMENSIONAL DESIGN, 2007

SOUND THINKING

gomidesign

BRIGHTON GRADUATE TOM MEADES'* BRIGHT IDEA WAS CREATING PORTABLE LOUDSPEAKERS FROM NON-RECYCLABLE PLASTIC WASTE — NOW IT'S A THRIVING BUSINESS

BY EMMA TAYLOR

Plastic waste makes up 85% of the pollution on our beaches, and every year the UK alone throws away 300 million kilos of flexible plastics which aren't accepted by UK councils for recycling.

Thankfully, Tom Meades and his Brighton-based sustainable design studio, Gomi, have come up with a solution to prevent plastic bags, bubble wrap and pallet wrap all pouring into landfill or our oceans – by turning it into functional and beautiful customer products such as their trendy portable speakers.

Tom and his three business partners collect flexible plastics (low-density polyethylene or LDPE) from local businesses and beaches, melt it down, compress it and hand craft the speakers. "It takes 100 plastic bags to make one Gomi speaker," explains Tom. "Every speaker has its own unique colour style, depending on the waste plastic we've used. And, we use only sustainable material on the inside, including 100% recycled denim for sound insulation. We've worked with audio professionals and electronics engineers to ensure the product is not only aesthetically desirable but also sounds great."

Tom has developed a process that heats the plastic bags up just enough to make them malleable, but avoids burning the material – which releases toxic gases into the air. The body of the speaker is also completely recyclable, as the material can be melted down and remoulded, without losing its qualities. The brand is working to ensure that all of the electronic components can be recycled by other engineering and tech companies.

The innovative business idea won Tom one of the Santander Big Ideas Competition prizes last year, resulting in a visit to 10 Downing Street to meet the Prime Minister's business advisor. Not that Tom has forgotten where his inspiration came from: "When I was at the University of Brighton, the tutors on my 3D Design course were really helpful," he says. "There are about 15 different tutors, all with different specialisms – textiles, ceramics, sustainability – and so they find a tutor best suited to your interests from day one. Dr Tom Ainsworth, Principal Lecturer at the School of Architecture and Design, was particularly supportive and inspiring to me."

> "WE'RE HOPING TO HAVE A PORTABLE POWER BANK AND A BATCH OF NEW SPEAKERS BY CHRISTMAS."

After a summer internship with a local Brighton technology company, Tom began to creatively push boundaries in his final year at university. "I remember looking at how we could use local wood material to create a zero-carbon product, and so I started prototyping speakers out of old school desks!"

With his interest in sustainable materials ignited, it wasn't long after leaving university that he co-founded his design business. But why the name, Gomi (pronounced Go-Me)? "Gomi means rubbish or litter in Japanese," says Tom. "And we're really inspired by Japanese minimal design, so it was a perfect fit.

> "WHEN WE FIRST STARTED THE BUSINESS WE COLLECTED LOADS OF PLASTIC BAGS, THAT'S WHERE THE CRAZY COLOURS CAME FROM."

"When we first started the business we collected loads of plastic bags," he recalls. "That's where the crazy colours came from. But now we've started working with big food wholesalers and retailers in Brighton. Every shop and every restaurant has tons of this material because it's just plastic packaging. Flexible plastics are deemed non-commercially valuable to nearly all recyclers due to having no weight and being hard to process. They just don't get recycled because of their lack of economic value. So, the flexible plastic waste we use would definitely end up being incinerated, sent to landfill or end up in the ocean if we didn't intercept and rescue it."

Meanwhile, Gomi continues to go from strength to strength. As well as the popular speakers, the company is currently collaborating with big brands, such as Desperados, on innovative ways they can work with the waste they produce. More products are in development too. "We're hoping to have a portable power bank and a batch of new speakers by Christmas," says Tom excitedly. "All made from the same waste material."

Talk about plastic fantastic! ✖

*BA(HONS) 3D DESIGN AND CRAFT, 2017

HAIR OF THE DOG

TEXTILES GRADUATE **JADE EVANS*** REVEALS HOW SHE'S CREATING HOME FURNISHINGS FROM DOG HAIR

AS TOLD TO ALICE LEADER

"I grew up with long-haired German Shepherd dogs for pets and I remember their hair being everywhere. When you brushed them you'd end up with these massive bundles of hair. I've never forgotten that image, so when my course tutor wanted me to think of a radical idea, the first thing that sprung to mind was trying to create fabric out of dog hair. It started off as a bit of a joke until I started experimenting with the hair and realised it could actually work.

The key thing is that the hair must be brushed and not cut, otherwise it won't spin into a yarn. Once it's woven into a fabric, then I treat and wash it – all in a sustainable way. I spin it on an old loom, so no electricity is used in the process. Textiles is the world's second most polluting industry, so I want to show that things can be done differently.

I've spent a lot of time refining my technique, but now that I've left university, I've started to create high-end luxury items like cushions, rugs and wall hangings – real statement pieces. I use natural dyes like indigo and turmeric to help the aesthetic and make it more commercially appealing.

Initially, I got the hair from dog groomers, but it was too mixed and mostly cut hair, which I can't use. So, I put out a request on social media and now I go and collect it from pet owners who are happy to supply it. I'm preparing to go national with the venture, so I'll be sending out eco-friendly, biodegradable bags for people to fill and return to me.

I've tried working with cat hair but it's too short and doesn't have the right properties to make it spin together. Whereas hair from German Shepherds has the same properties as wool, which makes it easier to work with.

"HAIR FROM GERMAN SHEPHERDS HAS THE SAME PROPERTIES AS WOOL, WHICH MAKES IT EASIER TO WORK WITH."

I've also started to get a lot of interest from pet owners who want memorial pieces created. As their dogs get older, pet owners send brushed hair to me and I make a keepsake for them. So, as well as a statement item it also acts as a piece of personal memorabilia.

I appreciate I'm catering for a niche market. If you're not a dog lover it's probably not going to appeal. It might even shock some people. But I showcased my products at a design show in London recently and the reaction was amazing. For me, that's what's so rewarding. Seeing the buzz and excitement about something that's been created from what would otherwise be waste material is really inspiring." ✖

*MDES TEXTILES WITH BUSINESS STUDIES, 2019

THE LONG-STANDING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE SUSSEX INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (IFCA) AND THE UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON CONTINUES TO PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN THE PROTECTION OF THE SUSTAINABLE MARINE ENVIRONMENT ALONG THE SUSSEX COAST

SCALES OF JUSTICE

Collaborative research projects, guest lecturing and student field trips all help in the conservation and restoration of local marine and coastal habitats and their associated species.

Much of IFCA's invaluable work goes unseen. But, above the water, their patrol vessel, Watchful, (right) is a visible and powerful presence. An 18-metre, twin-engined, high-tech high-spec boat, it enables the authority to conduct a range of compliance and enforcement activity, protecting fisheries and conservation sites off the Sussex coast.

"Our officers use it to monitor fishing vessel activity, boarding fishing boats to ensure they're using the right-sized nets and catching the right-sized fish," says research manager Kathryn Nelson (a University of Brighton masters graduate).

"It's mainly used for patrol and bylaw enforcement, but plenty of research is also done on the boat. We've recently had students from the University of Brighton on board, helping us conduct valuable plankton trawling and monitoring the amount of microplastic waste in the water. They're always astonished when they look under the microscope and see how much plastic there is. There's so much essential research work to be done, so it's a massive boost having skilled students working with us either on placement or on their final year projects."

Photography: Sussex IFCA

"RUN IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE IFCA, THE FIELD TRIPS ARE ALWAYS A HIGHLIGHT."

Closer to the shore, the Brighton rock pools at Rottingdean beach (below) are also an ideal location for the University of Brighton to conduct field trips for first year marine biology students.

Located within the Beachy Head West Marine Conservation Zone, the subtidal chalk gulleys are a fragile and rare marine habitat, which supports abundant wildlife, including threatened species such as blue mussels, sea horses and native oysters.

"Run in conjunction with the IFCA, the field trips are always a highlight," says Corina Ciocan, a senior lecturer in marine biology at the University of Brighton. "Every year, two or three of their officers accompany myself and the students, and organise an intertidal survey, helping the students record the number and variety of species in the pools. It's vital data for conservation and the protection of species. But more than that, the officers' lectures about their work are fascinating and really inspirational for the students. It's an invaluable collaboration that hugely benefits all parties." ✖

THE CITY OF BRIGHTON & HOVE IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF NUMEROUS SUSTAINABLE AND ECO-FRIENDLY INITIATIVES...

ILLUSTRATED BY ANDY SMITH, ILLUSTRATION BA(HONS), 1996

BIG LEMON BUSES

Originally set up to run all buses on recycled waste cooking oil from local restaurants, a Brighton bus company, the Big Lemon, launched the UK's first solar-powered electric bus in 2017. They're now converting their entire bus fleet to electric, utilising power from solar panels on the roof of the bus depot.

BRIGHTON ENERGY COOPERATIVE

A community-owned renewable energy company, the Brighton Energy Cooperative has raised over £2m since 2010, installing solar panels on numerous Brighton & Hove schools. Money raised from selling electricity is distributed into a community fund, paying interest to members and repaying capital.

THE AMEX STADIUM

Brighton & Hove Albion Football Club generate their own green electricity using solar panels on the roof of the club's Amex Stadium in Falmer. The club also has a local food sourcing policy to cut carbon within its food supply chain.

RAMPION

The Rampion Offshore Wind Farm, off the Brighton coast, consists of 116 wind turbines, which generate almost 1,400 gigawatt hours of power every year – equivalent to the annual electricity consumption of virtually half the homes in Sussex. This green energy reduces carbon emissions by approximately 600,000 tonnes per year.

PESTICIDE-FREE

Brighton & Hove City Council has pledged to become a pesticide-free city, and has begun to remove weeds by hand and tools to reduce the use of the toxic herbicide glyphosate. They've also begun exploring new weed control methods such as hot foam and infrared technology.

BEACH CLEAN

Silent Disco Beach Cleans take place every month between Brighton's Palace and West Piers. Organised by eco adventure company Pier2Pier, up to 200 volunteers wearing Bluetooth wireless Silent Disco headphones collect over 800 kilos of litter every year.

UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON

Since 2014, the University of Brighton's Green Growth Platform has helped businesses raise over £2m in research and development funding, creating over 300 green economy jobs and helping to develop over 70 new products and services.

CAROLINE LUCAS

The Green Party's Caroline Lucas has been the Member of Parliament for Brighton Pavilion since the 2010 general election. She was re-elected in the 2015 and 2017 general elections with an increased majority, and remains the only current Green Party MP in the UK.

EARTHSHIP BRIGHTON

Earthship Brighton, a local community group, have built a compost loo for public use in Brighton's Stanmer Park. They host workshops for green building courses including how to build your own environmentally friendly toilet.

BRIGHTON PRIDE

The UK's biggest LGBTQ+ Pride festival, Brighton Pride is also the greenest. A reusable branded cup design without featuring festival dates means cups can be stored and reused in future years. Plastic straws are banned from all onsite bars and bottled water was replaced by Aquapax cartons to reduce the volume of single-use plastic.

Photography: Nii Odzenma

GHANAIAN ARTIST **SERGE ATTUKWEI CLOTTEY'S** PERFORMANCE INSTALLATIONS HIGHLIGHT GHANA'S SOARING LEVELS OF POLLUTION AND HELP DRAW ATTENTION TO SOCIAL INJUSTICE...

PHOTOGRAPHY BY NII ODZENMA

In Ghana, jerrycans play a vital role in transporting water in times of drought but leave behind an environmental catastrophe, lying discarded by the side of the road, on city dumps and beaches and clogging up the country's drainage system.

As an artist, Serge Attukwei Clottey uses the jerrycans (known locally as "Kufuor gallons") to raise awareness of this plastic waste crisis and to rouse local communities into action. He pays locals to collect the jerrycans and then cuts them into small tiles, shaping them over an open flame, then moulding the different sections together before binding them with copper to create large, vibrant tapestries.

"The gallons come from different people and different parts of the country," explains Serge. "So when I cut them and weave them together, it's like merging different stories. It's very symbolic but once I bring them together through the artistic process, it changes form and value and it changes people's perception about dealing with plastic."

Discussing the ethos behind his art in general, Serge adds: "I challenge convention and advocate the importance of creativity. Through my foundation - The Attukwei Art Foundation – I give back to my La community in Accra through school programmes, lectures and by raising awareness about global environmental issues."

In recognition of his work in sustainability and his major contribution to the contemporary arts and community development, the University of Brighton awarded Serge an Honorary Doctorate of Arts in 2019. ✖

NINE FORMER STUDENTS ON HOW THE UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON SHAPED THEM...

#MADEATBRIGHTON

JULIEN MACDONALD OBE, FASHION TEXTILES DESIGN WITH BUSINESS STUDIES BA(HONS), 1994
FASHION DESIGNER

"The University of Brighton is a great place to develop your creativity. I'd recommend my fantastic course to any new student. I also loved living as a student in Brighton – it's got so much to offer a young creative."

"I found a home in learning at the University of Brighton. Perhaps the first home I'd ever found. It was the place I discovered that I had the capacity to do something with my life. Those old art studios were genuinely liberating and the self-belief I manifested during my course enabled me to grow and flourish."

JUNO ROCHE, CRITICAL FINE ARTS, 1998
WRITER

THE BRIGHTON

ROSANNA WOODS, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS BA (HONS), 2009, MARKETING MSC, 2010
MANAGING DIRECTOR, DROOMS

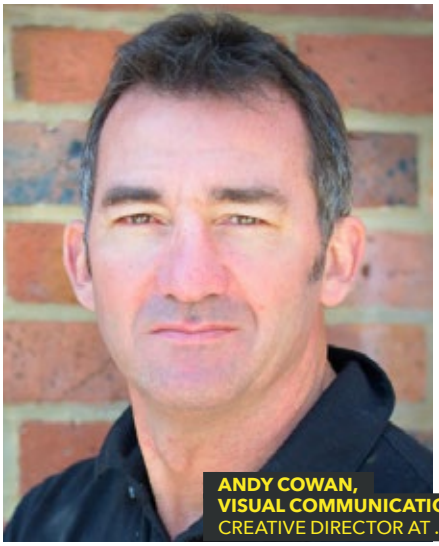
"My courses at Brighton gave me the knowledge and discipline to pursue an international career. Not just that but I also had a truly wonderful time!"

JULIAN ENGELSMAN, FINE ART SCULPTURE BA(HONS), 1994
FOUNDER AND MD, JOYFUEL

"My early 'explorations' at Brighton helped me understand what it takes to create something authentic – whether that's artwork, a book or a business. A little vision, a lot of persistence, and the guts to follow your journey!"

THE BRIGHTON EFFECT

"To a 19 year-old boy from a sleepy Kent village, Brighton seemed like Vegas! The teaching at the uni was excellent and the sports set-up fantastic. In fact, the 'field of dreams' at Falmer was where I met most of my still-close friends."



ANDY COWAN,
VISUAL COMMUNICATION BA,1985
CREATIVE DIRECTOR AT .STUDIO

"Not only did the course equip me with materials knowledge and skills, it instilled in me a desire to use those skills wisely, long before responsible practice was such a hot topic. I was always encouraged to think carefully about what to make and why and I've continued that questioning attitude in my work to this day."

LIN CHEUNG,
3D MATERIALS PRACTICE BA(HONS), 1994
JEWELLERY DESIGNER

MEI-CHUN HUANG,
SUSTAINABLE DESIGN MA, 2017
CO-FOUNDER, RE-UP
STUDENT PLUS PROJECT

MOOSUN YOO,
FINE ART MA, 2017
CO-FOUNDER, RE-UP
STUDENT PLUS PROJECT

"My course provided the key to understanding the world and the possibilities of the future. It challenged me to think about our society and the environment. So, it's exciting to now be putting that into reality."

"Brighton gave me time and space to develop my passion and allowed me to dive deep into my chosen field. I also made a brilliant friend and business partner!"

WESLEY ANKRAH,
CRIMINOLOGY & SOCIOLOGY BA(HONS) 2012
MANAGING DIRECTOR,
SEERBRIDGE

"The University of Brighton helped me realise my potential and drove my ambition. So much so that I became a director of a community interest company less than four years after graduating."


Get to KNOW your DRAGONS!
CRESSIDA COWELL
EAT you...

"I wouldn't be a writer if it wasn't for Brighton."

NEW CHILDREN'S LAUREATE AND BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF THE 'HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON' SERIES, CRESSIDA COWELL'S BOOKS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN 38 LANGUAGES AND ADAPTED INTO A HOLLYWOOD FILM AND TV SERIES. BUT IT ALL STARTED AT BRIGHTON

BY GRAHAM WRAY

It's not often children's author-illustrator Cressida Cowell is lost for words. But, the prolific writer of over 20 bestselling books was literally gobsmacked on hearing she'd been named as the new Waterstones Children's Laureate this summer. "I was at my dentist's surgery with a mouthful of novocaine when I took the phone call," she laughs uproariously. "So, when they told me the wonderful news, all I could reply was, 'Arghgmfff!' I actually couldn't speak and was worried they thought I was being terribly rude."

Truth be told, it's hard to imagine children's favourite Cressida ever being remotely rude. Warm and engaging company, she's garrulous, wildly animated and fizzes with energy and humour. Not unlike her books, then.

But ask her about her aims as the 11th writer to take on the Children's Laureate role, following in the footsteps of Quentin Blake, Jacqueline Wilson and fellow University of Brighton alumnus Chris Riddell, and she reveals a steely-eyed seriousness. "There's so much to be done," says the 53-year-old, rising to the challenges ahead. "My main thrust is that all children should have a library in their primary school. Otherwise, if their parents can't afford books, how on earth will they become readers for pleasure?"

She's also equally passionate about creativity in schools. "It's why I've launched a campaign called Free Writing Friday," she explains. "Every Friday at school, kids have 15 minutes to write or draw anything they want in their own notebook. Spelling, grammar and handwriting aren't important and it won't be marked by teachers. It's purely for fun and a practical solution that fits into the national curriculum. It also addresses a massive problem that creativity is just not valued in our schools any more."

A momentary pause for breath. "In this country, you now can't take A-level History of Art at state schools! What does that say about our value of culture and creative industries? Our creative industries are out-performing the rest of the economy by double, yet our school systems attach such a low value to creativity and the art subjects. It's appalling and depressing and something I'm determined to help put right."

Don't bet against Cressida doing just that. Because she has a history of making a roaring

"WITH THE ENVIRONMENT, IT'S LIKE THE CHILDREN ARE TRYING TO ALERT THEIR PARENTS THAT THEIR TROUSERS ARE ON FIRE BUT THE PARENTS AREN'T LISTENING!"

success of everything she turns her hand to. She grew up in London, read English at Oxford, and worked in publishing before studying MA Narrative Illustration/Editorial Design at the University of Brighton in 1996 where she excelled. "Oh, I loved it at Brighton," she recalls. "I definitely wouldn't be a writer if it wasn't for that course.

"I actually wrote my first picture book, *Little Bo Peep's Library Book*, on the course, so it was a real stepping stone to my future career. Sometimes students go to university and can't quite see how what they're learning is going to help in the outside world. Not at Brighton. It was so practical but fascinating and exciting. My personal tutor was George Hardie but I also had tutorials with John Vernon Lord and the wonderful Chris Mullen. Those three were so influential in shaping the way I made books and thought about telling stories. They gave such brilliant advice on pacing and characterisation.

"Chris was a real film buff and I remember him giving spellbinding

lectures about the storytelling in *Goodfellas*. Other students' projects were on death and destruction, or whatever, and I'd say, 'My story is about Mr Orange – The Talking Carrot.' So, I was never very cool. But I always knew it was important to take the carrot seriously."

Judging by the number of green themes in Cressida's books, the environment is clearly another subject she takes very seriously. "My father was an environmentalist and chairman of the RSPB, so it's something I grew up with and have always felt passionately about," she explains. "I drew burning forests on the front of my third book because it's true, the forests are on fire. But I've found that children have a stronger grasp than adults of what actually is important. When I talk to thousands of them around the country, they all care passionately about environmental issues and the state of the planet. It's like the children are trying to alert their parents that their trousers are on fire but the parents aren't listening!"

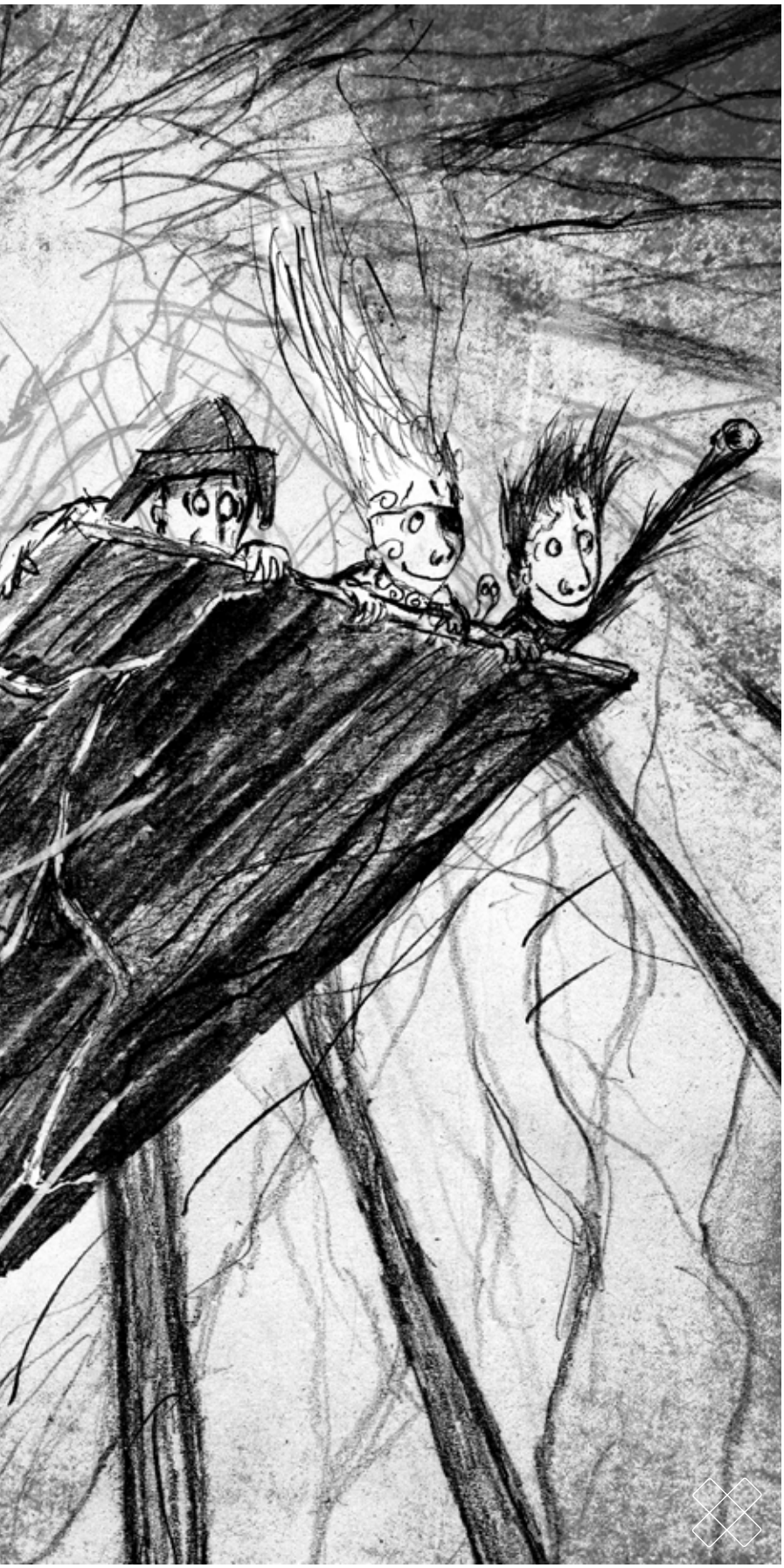
"AT UNIVERSITY, I'D SAY, 'MY STORY IS ABOUT MR ORANGE — THE TALKING CARROT.' SO, I WAS NEVER VERY COOL."

When she's not campaigning in schools or tucked away writing and drawing in the shed at the bottom of her west London garden, Cressida can now also be found schmoozing in Hollywood. Her *How to Train Your Dragon* series was successfully adapted into a billion dollar film by DreamWorks, who also acquired the rights to her latest adventure series, *The Wizards of Once*.

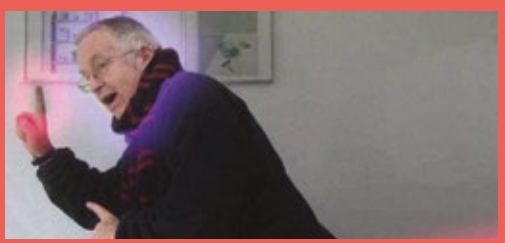
"I love getting involved in films and I'm about to head out to Los Angeles to the Emmy Awards Governors Ball," she says, excitedly. "It's all great fun but I'm not a frustrated screenwriter, I'm a book writer. You have to remember what made you want to do something in the first place. So it's important to let go, remain humble and respect people working in different mediums who have their own creative vision of your work.

"I learned that at Brighton too." ✖

Cressida Cowell's *The Wizards Of Once: Knock Three Times* is out now



How to train your Student!



DR CHRIS MULLEN, CRESSIDA'S TUTOR AT BRIGHTON, RECALLS TEACHING THE ASPIRING AUTHOR...

"The MA course (Narrative Illustration/Editorial Design) attracted students from a broad range of disciplines. We packed it with lectures, seminars, films, tutorials and performances to encourage confidence of direction, high standards of research and making, and breadth of cultural understanding.

In addition to Cressida, our teaching group included Strawberrie Donnelly (now art director at Bloomsbury Children's Books), the filmmaker and painter Barbara Loftus and Stephen Swain (now art director on the *Harry Potter* and *Star Wars* films).

Cressida was a delightful soul among the group and joyfully absorbed everything we had to offer. In her first year she produced *Six Projects on the Subject of Gambling* and for her final year, *Never Play Poker with a Stranger*, and the two-volume *Little Bo Peep's Library Book*.

She tempered a keen intelligence with great wit and imagination and it was a delight to see her developing such powers of storytelling. In addition, she could communicate a vivid sense of place, all of which converged on the location and philosophy of *How to Train Your Dragon*." ✖

What I've Learned

SEE THE WOOD AND THE TREES

When you create your own baby, you want to do everything yourself. But learn to let go, allow others in and listen to potential solutions from different viewpoints.

HEALTHY YOU, HEALTHY BUSINESS

Ensure exercise and diet feature in your weekly planner as much as your work. Eat lots of protein and omegas for heavy brain work and leave your desk every hour for a quick stretch to improve circulation and prevent neck strain.

GOING GREEN SHOULDN'T MEAN GOING IN THE RED

Society is changing and consumers want to make better environmental decisions but the commercial sector needs to catch up. Our government has to offer more support to businesses to enable them to make eco-friendly changes to their infrastructure, products and services.

JO CHILD* IS THE FOUNDER AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF CLEVERGREEN GROUP LIMITED – A GREEN EVENTS AND BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP COMPANY, HOSTING REGULAR FESTIVALS AND EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE SOUTH-EAST, INCLUDING A MONTHLY NETWORKING EVENT FOR WOMEN IN GREEN BUSINESS

*HOSPITALITY AND EVENT MANAGEMENT BA, 2010

CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES, COME ON!

No matter how small the win, give yourself a pat on the back at least once a week. A small celebration is good for your self-esteem and helps keep you going when times are tough.

SAY YES, LEARN LATER

If you wait to know how to do everything perfectly, you'll never make the leap. There's very little room for perfectionism in business. Daring to fail is badass!

ASKING FOR FEEDBACK ISN'T ASKING FOR TROUBLE

Criticism can be valuable. But learn to recognise the type of people who will never be pleased about anything and those who have a constructive and valuable input that's worth taking on board.

MONEY IS NOT THE ONLY MEASURE OF SUCCESS

I've worked on events that haven't made an immediate profit. But their success is measured by the great time the audience had, guests returning to future events and the confidence I gained. Rather than loss makers, I like to think of them as portfolio builders.

IN BRIEF, ALWAYS DEBRIEF

Allow time for post analysis of every job, task, project and event. It might feel laborious but it's invaluable. Getting everything down on paper helps to highlight areas that can be improved.

LOOK BACK IN LANGUOR

When you're feeling de-motivated, look back a year and compare to where you are now. Thinking about what you're able to do now, that you couldn't have done then, is great motivation for ploughing on.

DON'T TRY TO FIT IN IF YOU WERE BORN TO STAND OUT!

I'm unconventional but I get things done. If you're an out of the box thinker, your ideas might not make sense to others at first. Just believe in yourself and trust your own instincts.

THE BIG BUILD

Architect's view of the Moulsecoomb development in context

PROGRESS AT THE BIG BUILD

THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON'S MOULSECOOMB CAMPUS HAS ENTERED AN EXCITING NEW PHASE WITH THE OPENING OF THE NEW PARKING FACILITY, AND WORK IS WELL UNDERWAY ON THE SITE OF FIVE STUDENT ACCOMMODATION BLOCKS...

The five new towers at the Lewes Road campus, ranging in height from eight to 18 floors, will provide over 800 affordable student bedrooms and space at ground level for new Students' Union and fitness facilities. The visually striking development is being built on the site of the university's Mithras House car park and is due to be ready for students starting courses from September 2021.

The campus transformation started last September, when work began on a new parking facility that replaces all existing surface parking at the campus. Its opening marks a pivotal moment in the huge development.

University of Brighton Vice-Chancellor, Professor Debra Humphris, said: "This is a huge milestone as work begins on the next stage of the university's biggest ever capital development programme. The new student accommodation and other facilities that together make up The Big Build will transform our largest campus. But just as importantly, along with the commercial development of the neighbouring Preston Barracks site, they will also transform the whole local area for the benefit of all who live, work and study here."

BUILT TO INSPIRE

The Moulsecoomb development is a stunning £300m programme that will transform the university's Moulsecoomb campus and the former Preston Barracks site, regenerating a huge area of the city.

The transformation of the old Preston Barracks site will include new homes and affordable housing, a new business start-up hub, numerous retail and food outlets and improved social spaces with extensive landscaping and planting. This scheme also includes the university's The Big Build, consisting of:

- Five new halls of residence
- A new academic building to house the Business School, with flexible modern learning and social spaces
- New Students' Union and fitness facilities
- A new multi-storey car park to replace existing parking facilities
- A landmark pedestrian bridge bringing both sides of the campus together, helping to redefine a stretch of the city's busy Lewes Road

THE BIG BUILD

TIME LINE

2019

SPRING
Work began on student accommodation, Students' Union and fitness facilities

AUTUMN
Work began on new Business School building

2021

SUMMER

Business School building completed

Pedestrian bridge installed

Student accommodation completed

New Students' Union and fitness facilities opened

Landscaping fully planted

Land freed up by the parking facility in front of Mithras House is being used to build the new student facilities and a new academic building that will provide a state-of-the-art home for the university's Business School. A new pedestrian bridge across the busy Lewes Road will link both sides of the campus, with improved walking routes through the campus, new green spaces and extensive landscaping.

With no planned increase in student numbers, the new accommodation will reduce pressure on local housing, while students in the new halls will be car-free and encouraged to make use of the improved cycling facilities that offer space for over 250 bikes.

The development boasts a number of other sustainable features including solar panels installed on several buildings, with some of the electricity generated being used to charge electric vehicles. Over 300 native species of trees will also be planted across the campus, creating inviting green spaces for students, staff and local communities to enjoy.

All the buildings making up The Big Build have been designed, and will be constructed to, the highest environmental and sustainability standards.

Sue McHugh, Director of Campus Development, said: "The modernisation of our Moulsecoomb campus alongside the development on the adjacent Preston Barracks site will totally transform the area. It will provide a better experience for our students, reduce pressure on local housing and bring additional amenities into the local area.

"We will continue to work hard to minimise disruption to current students, staff and local residents whilst the works are in progress, and use the build programme as a 'living classroom' for projects, placements and other learning opportunities." ✖

BUILDING A CAREER

BRIGHTON ALUMNI **CLAYTON PARSONS** GRADUATED IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION IN 2014 AND IS NOW BACK AT THE UNIVERSITY AS A SITE MANAGER ON THE BIG BUILD

"I must admit, coming back to Brighton as a non-student was a bit strange at first. But I have such fond memories of studying here that I quickly felt right back at home again.

I graduated in 2014 after completing a placement year with Bouygues UK who accepted me on their graduate scheme the following year, after which I became a full-time employee. Since then, I've worked on a number of large-scale developments, but working as a site manager on The Big Build construction project has been the most exciting.

"UNTIL YOU START WORKING IN THE INDUSTRY, YOU DON'T REALISE HOW MUCH OF WHAT YOU LEARN YOU CAN REALLY USE."

Brighton was a great place for me to study, and the course was very helpful in terms of preparing me for work in the industry. The practical nature of my degree has definitely been handy in my career to date. Until you start working in the industry, you don't realise how much of what you learn you can really use. My experience on the course was particularly helpful when it came to recruiting students as an employer. I could quiz them on areas that I knew were more difficult and see how they handled themselves.

My message for anyone studying the same course is this: make sure you don't lose sight of the end goal. There's a point in the middle where it feels insurmountable, and you're slugging away without getting anything back. But, if you can get past that, you'll see the light at the end of the tunnel and the rewards at the end are more than worth it.

The same principle applies when you're working on site. With the scale of this project being so vast, the timeframe we're working to can make it feel quite daunting. So, when I'm on big projects like this one, I tend to break the progress up into smaller milestones to remind myself of the amazing work we're achieving as we go along. Our next milestone will be when the scaffolding and surrounding framework starts going up for the student accommodation buildings. When completed, there will be 800 new rooms available for students, as well as a gym and new Students' Union facilities.

Overseeing a construction project like this requires a massive amount of coordination. You've got a huge team of people who have to get up and down these structures, and you have to fit it all into an eight-hour working day. And noise restrictions mean we can only drill and hammer between 8am and 6pm, which limits what we can get done with the time we have.

But, the finished project is going to be absolutely awesome. When I was a student here, the construction site was just a car park, so it's great that the space will now be used for something so positive and inspiring." ✖

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE BIG BUILD PROGRESS BY VISITING WWW.BRIGHTON.AC.UK/BIGBUILD

THE LAST WORD

VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR
DEBRA HUMPHRIS

University of Brighton Vice-Chancellor, Professor Debra Humphris

Last year we celebrated the 25th anniversary since Brighton achieved university status. Our reflection on the last 25 years and the achievements we have made as a higher education institution have been an inspiration to us as we look to our future.

This year we are reviewing the University's current strategic priorities through to 2025. A pivotal investment in the University's strategy is the ongoing development of our Moulsecoomb campus. The Big Build, as named by our students, represents our ambition to enhance our campus and local community and continue to build great partnerships reaching far beyond our city.

Along with the rest of the Higher Education sector, the University of Brighton is facing a range of external challenges. While the role of universities is being debated, we are delighted to be a part of University UK's national campaign #MadeAtUni. This campaign is designed to bring to life the impact universities across the country have on individuals and communities. Our university, in a number of key areas, is at the forefront of some of the most exciting research and discoveries, as well as the vital work to teach and educate the next generation.

To share more of our great research and innovations developed here at the University of Brighton, we're launching #MadeAtBrighton, a stamp we're proud to place on all of the excellent research, teaching, learning and innovation that our university community plays a part in. I encourage you, our alumni, donors and friends, to follow and contribute to this campaign throughout the year to discover the impact Brighton has in our community, our sector and around the world.

Together, the global impact we make is a vital one. This edition of *The Brighton Effect* includes just a sample of the great work our alumni, researchers and students do to reduce our environmental impact, enhancing our sustainability as individuals and as a community. Since 2011, through a combination of actions, the University has delivered a 37% reduction in carbon emissions. But we want to go much further. As an institution, we have pledged to develop a credible and evidence-based plan to achieve net-zero carbon, a goal I am incredibly proud for us to be prioritising. We should all assess our own impact on our green planet and discover how we can bring some of the innovation and sustainability featured in this magazine into our own lives.

"WE SHOULD ALL ASSESS OUR OWN IMPACT ON OUR GREEN PLANET."

While we face significant uncertainties in the wake of Brexit, climate change and the future funding landscape of post-16 education, we remain positive and forward thinking, fully focused on continuing to deliver the best possible experiences and outcomes for our students and staff. We are ensuring our university remains resilient and sustainable throughout this time of uncertainty. We are, as ever, a welcoming institution and take great pride in our connections and global partnerships, a message we wish to reinforce with our Brighton community wherever you are in the world. ✖

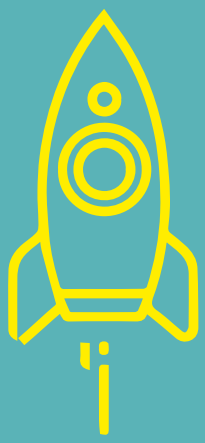
Illustration: Tomás Morren

University of Brighton

Together, we've raised £20,000 for student projects!

springboard

Since launching in October 2018, the University of Brighton's crowdfunding platform has...



Rocketed students to SPACE!

Danced teams all the way to competition

Exhibited multiple student shows

Be a part of Springboard in 2019/20
Check out our live projects: springboard.brighton.ac.uk
Get in touch to find out more: springboard@brighton.ac.uk
#SpringboardBrighton #MadeAtBrighton

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